

# SSP NEWSLETTER

## Heartlines Partnership Strengthens Mentor Programme



*To date, Heartlines has facilitated two training workshops for SSP mentors as well as a workshop for SSP Scholars and parents.*

Student Sponsorship Programme (SSP) has partnered with Heartlines as its training partner, a development that is strengthening SSP's mentoring programme.

Heartlines is a venture aimed at helping people live good values through the media, values initiatives and social networking.

One Heartlines facilitator for the programme's training workshops described mentoring as a learning curve for both parties – the mentor and the mentee. With this in mind, the workshops are aimed at equipping mentors with essential skills that could prove useful in their mentoring journey, including how to deal with challenges that they may encounter.

Qualifying SSP mentors receive a Mentor's Guide complete with a DVD. To receive a copy of the Heartlines forms that are required to be completed on application, contact Meriam Mahlatsi at SSP on (011) 520 0162 or email: [mahlatsim@nbc.co.za](mailto:mahlatsim@nbc.co.za). Interested mentors in the Eastern Cape may contact Kolisa Siqoko on (043) 748 2032 or email: [ksiqoko-sspel@telkomsa.net](mailto:ksiqoko-sspel@telkomsa.net).

The next mentor's session will be held on 14 October 2009 at NBC's Head Office in Braamfontein. As with the regular mentor training workshops, this event is a must for those who want to share their experiences as a mentor and those who want to glean this information by listening to these encounters.



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# Cultivating Excellence in our Students

Cool Kids Learn, a provider of academic enrichment programmes to students in the Southeast region of the US, recently hosted a conference themed 'Cultivating Excellence' where more than 300 student volunteers and business, government and education delegates were in attendance.

Kim Robinson, Executive Director of the Student Sponsorship Programme (SSP), was invited to give the keynote address at the conference held in May this year in Miami, Florida.

Further to sharing the SSP model with the audience, Kim spoke on the value of cultivating excellence in our students.

Defining excellence as "greatness plus character", Kim went on to say that excellence was both about brilliance and achievement, in addition to courage, self-love, cross-cultural understanding, compassion, integrity, respect and responsibility.

Kim's speech offered practical approaches to cultivating excellence: attend to students' basic



Earl Phalen, CEO Summer Advantage; Kim Robinson, SSP Executive Director; Kristi Krueger, Miami-based TV News Anchor; John Copeland; Chairman of the Board, Cool Kids Learn.

material needs, listen to young people, mentor, ask for their opinions, read, affirm young people, expect excellence, demand responsibility, find something a student is good at and encourage the student to flourish, and live a life worth emulating.

The conference was a success for Cool Kids Learn and SSP.

According to Kim, it was an opportunity to share lessons and experiences and expose an audience of US stakeholders committed to academic excellence to SSP's vision and work.

## New Appointments at SSP



**Meriam Mahlatsi**

Meriam Mahlatsi joined the SSP team as a Junior Programme Officer on 1 June.

Meriam is a Psychology graduate from Wits University, and prior to joining SSP, was involved in volunteer work for several NGO's around Gauteng through the Wits Volunteer Programme.

Meriam is passionate about making a difference in the lives of young people. Some of her contributions to SSP will be co-ordinating the Mentorship Programme, the Parents' Forum as well as assisting in the recruitment of SSP Scholars.

Kgaogelo Baldwin Seemola was appointed Student Programme Officer at SSP on 1 July.

Kgaogelo's experience will undoubtedly benefit SSP in his new role. He worked at one of South Africa's major banking institutions from 1994 to 2001 before deciding to develop the future leaders of the country through teaching at various schools in Gauteng from 2005 to June 2009.

"There is great potential within SSP and I am looking forward to helping our Scholars achieve their full potential."



**Kgaogelo Seemola**

# Student Recruitment

## Incoming Class of 2010

At the beginning of this year, Student Sponsorship Programme (SSP) selected 95 learners to attend its Bridging Programme.

From the Bridging Programme, learners will be selected for placement at SSP's partner schools. The balance will be accommodated at the Bridging Programme's partner school, Sekolo sa Borokgo.

In addition each year, SSP's partner schools request that we assess candidates who would have applied in their grade 7 year, directly to the school, for possible inclusion into SSP.

Forty learners sat for these assessment exams in May and July this year, and, should their results indicate a satisfactory pass, students will be interviewed in early September and their status confirmed with the partner schools before the end of 2009.

## Incoming Class of 2011

The recruitment for the incoming class of 2011 has been extended to close on Saturday, 14 November 2009. Eligible candidates will write their exams on Saturday, 21 November 2009. SSP is expecting 2 000 candidates to apply for this prestigious scholarship.

Interviews with the top achieving learners will be conducted at the beginning of 2010 for an opportunity to be a part of the SSP / SSB Bridging Programme, starting March 2010.

All student recruitment enquiries can be directed to Bheki Masango on (011) 520 0022 or email [masangob@nbc.co.za](mailto:masangob@nbc.co.za).

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## What's On

- **Annual Student / Parent Day**

Towards the end of each year, Student Sponsorship Programme hosts a Student / Parent Day to welcome new students and their parents to SSP and to renew contact with existing and alumni students and parents. This year's event will take place on Saturday, 28 November. The venue and time will be communicated closer to the event.

- **2009 Orientation Camp**

Student Sponsorship Programme will host its annual Orientation Camp for new students from 7 to 11 December 2009.

The purpose of the camp is to welcome SSP Scholars and equip them with the necessary leadership and life skills. Students participate in various activities that will equip them with leadership, diversity management goal setting and problem solving skills. The camp also strives to increase students' self-esteem and motivation to excel at their new schools. Learners have the opportunity to learn more about the mission and vision of SSP as well as interact with their fellow peers.

Further arrangements will be announced in due course.

- **Call to Service**

The culture of Student Sponsorship Programme is founded on a deep sense of service and support from all stakeholders. SSP has welcomed many parents and other stakeholders who have volunteered to assist at various events. We would like to encourage you to volunteer your time and skills as well. Please contact Junior Programme Officer, Meriam Mahlatsi on (011) 520 0162 or email: [mahlatsim@nbc.co.za](mailto:mahlatsim@nbc.co.za)

# Enhancing Learners' Abilities



The Student Sponsorship Programme's (SSP) Bridging Programme, in partnership with the Sekolo sa Borokga (SSB) school, adds value to learners' school performance, their behaviour and attitudes. This was the outcome of a recent survey conducted among learners who participated in the 2008 Bridging Programme.

Many of the learners said that their favourite subjects were the ones they studied in the Bridging Programme, including maths, science, English and computer literacy.

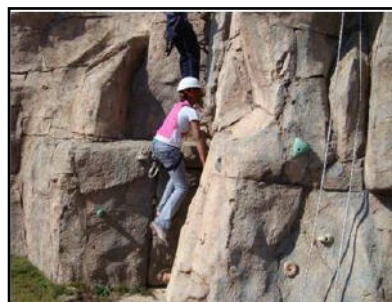
SSP also received positive feedback from its school coordinators about learners from the 2008 Bridging Programme. Arlene Mania, a school coordinator from King Edward VII School, reported that three of the boys in the SSP group were in the Top 10 out of 270 grade eight boys.

The second year of the Bridging Programme is already nearing its end and continues to enhance the academic abilities and social skills of learners.

Small, close classes are held on an average of three Saturdays a month. The 92 students set to soon complete this year's Bridging Programme say they look forward to attending for these reasons:

- They gain an edge over their class mates as they grow and excel with the extra academic support
- They interact with children from different backgrounds;
- They improve their interpersonal skills;
- They do practical work that many did not do at their respective primary schools.

The high level of commitment from both educators and learners alike underlines the value of the Bridging Programme. SSP trusts that with continued financial support, the Bridging Programme will continue to enrich the lives of many more students in the future.



# Workshops

SSP invests in the development of learners holistically through highly interactive workshops that start learners on their leadership development journey.

Conducted by expert facilitators, two of the four social skills development workshops have already taken place this year.

The workshop in May focused on teaching the learners leadership skills - understanding leadership, the qualities of a leader, and the challenges and functions of a leader. SSP Scholars are encouraged to assume leadership roles at their partner schools, so it is vital that we arm them with the skills they need to be effective in these roles.

The second workshop in June focused on developing learners' diversity management skills to enable



SSP Scholars to interact with learners from diverse backgrounds. The workshop addressed diversity in culture, religion, gender and race. Activities at the workshop included:

- A presentation of different cultures in relation to language, food, rituals, dance, etc.
- Gender stereotype exercises to disprove the myths around them.

The winter camp took place in the first week of July during the public school holidays at Pro-Act - a camp site in Hammanskraal, Pretoria. The week-long programme was packed with lessons and activities. A typical day at the camp started with breakfast at 7am followed by classes in maths, science and English. Afternoons were reserved for leadership and team building skills development with evenings open for tutoring sessions in all subjects.

Learners thoroughly enjoyed the rock climbing, foofie slides, kayaking and team building exercises. They were also treated to a snake show where they were taught about the different reptiles and their behaviour patterns. Learners enjoyed a camp fire on the second last night with a talent show (we certainly unearthed South Africa's future stars at the camp concert).

As with all our camps, learners write tests on the last day of the camp.

Two more workshops on advanced computer literacy and personal management are planned for later in the year.

# Teaming up for Community Service Day

In the spirit of Nelson Mandela Day on 18 July, people worldwide were encouraged to each pledge 67 minutes towards making the world a better place. The 67 minutes represent Mandela's 67 years dedicated to social change. On 19 September, Student Sponsorship Programme Scholars and mentors will team up to extend this initiative at SSP's Annual Community Service Day.

The objective is to not only give back to communities in need, but also to instil a sense of community responsibility in SSP students. And, while making a meaningful difference to society, the day provides an opportunity for learners to strengthen their relationships with their mentors.

In previous years, SSP mentors and students have participated in a number of community service initiatives.

In 2007, SSP assisted the New Jerusalem Children's Home in Midrand - a haven for traumatised, abused, abandoned and orphaned HIV positive children between the ages of two months and 14 years of age. The SSP team got to work building a washing line, organising the information resource centre, painting murals, sorting clothes, cleaning the yard and planting a flower garden.

Last year, SSP served at the Lukholweni Primary School in Orlando East, Soweto. The theme, "Caring for the Environment", focused on creating awareness among students as well as the Lukholweni community about conserving the environment. Activities included cleaning, planting trees and vegetables at the school. These events left hope, smiles and valuable lessons to all who were part of the project.

SSP invites all mentors to set time aside to attend this year's exciting event with their mentees - lookout for details on the electronic invite. SSP hopes to touch lives and leave a meaningful impact through this event. Donations and sponsorships are welcome towards making this event a success.

For more information, please contact Kgaogelo Seemola at (011) 520 0262 or e-mail: [seemolak@nbc.co.za](mailto:seemolak@nbc.co.za)



A mural painted by SSP mentors and scholars at the New Jerusalem Children's Home.



Martin Cohen from Jacks' Paint with the SSP students.



Mentors and mentees preparing soil for planting flowers.



Information Resource Centre programming in action.

## **Past and Current Events**

### School Coordinators Lunch – 23 July 2009

Student Sponsorship Programme's (SSP) Eastern Cape office hosted their first school coordinators lunch on 23 July. It was an opportunity to thank the school coordinators for their continued and valuable support. They had a candid conversation that covered the general wellbeing of SSP's Scholars in the Eastern Cape and recommendations regarding scholar development and academic performance.

To our three East London coordinators, SSP Eastern Cape thanks you once again for a job well done.

### Recruitment 2009 - Incoming Class of 2010

Student Sponsorship Programme Eastern Cape embarked on its recruitment and placement drive earlier this year in April to identify academic talent in the province.

More than 160 learners from 40 primary schools in the Buffalo City municipality applied for SSP's prestigious scholarships to attend Hudson Park High School, Selborne College or Clarendon High School for Girls.

SSP interviewed 22 learners and short listed 13 for a total of 12 scholarships in East London.

SSP's Grahamstown recruitment was on a much smaller scale with only 11 applicants competing for four places equally split between Diocesan School for Girls and St Andrew's College for Boys.

SSP hopes to place a total of 16 scholars in both East London and Grahamstown in 2010.

### East London Mentorship training

In an effort to strengthen the relationship between its Scholars, their mentors and their parents, Student Sponsorship Programme in the Eastern Cape recently held its first mentee, parents and mentor workshop.

The workshop was jointly hosted by SSP and Heartlines in East London on July 18 at SSP's partner school, Hudson Park High School, and was facilitated by Johannesburg-based Quinton Pretorius. The workshop was also used as a platform by SSP to do something good for the community of East London in honour of Nelson Mandela Day on 18 July.

Some of the parents who attended gave SSP the thumbs-up, saying that the information provided during the workshop had empowered them to be better mentors in their respective communities. "Parents were motivated to go find and mentor young ones in their communities," says Kolisa Siqoko, SSP's Regional Director.

Much appreciation also goes to Heartlines for extending their existing relationship with SSP in Johannesburg to SSP's Eastern Cape office. "We are looking forward to training more SSP mentors with Heartlines in future," Kolisa concluded.

## **Upcoming events**

### Maths Camp 2009

SSP recognises the importance of mathematics as a requirement for entry into most university studies. Consequently, SSP will once again partner with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants on their grade 12 Maths and Accounting camp to take place in September 2009. All three SSP matrics will attend this camp during the short September break.

As with many of our programmes, SSP relies on sponsors to see events such as this take place. If you would like to contribute financially towards this camp, contact SSP Operations Manager, Sibongile Khumalo at [skhumalo-sspel@telkomsa.net](mailto:skhumalo-sspel@telkomsa.net)

# Pretoria Boys High School

## History

Pretoria Boys High School was declared in the 1880's as a *Staatsmodelskool* by the then South African Republic Government. The school, however, was not in operation for very long because when the Second Boer War broke out in 1899, many staff members and boys went to join the commandos. The building was turned into a prison and Sir Winston Churchill was captured and imprisoned there - later making his famous escape. The school was established in its present premises in 1910, and once again felt the effects of war, when in the period from 1939 to 1945, it lost 93 boys to the Second World War.



## School's Mission

The mission of the School is to pursue and attain excellence in all spheres of school life - academic, athletic and cultural - within the changing South African environment. It is ultimately the school's aim to produce gentlemen who are independent thinkers with physical and moral courage, who are articulate, well-mannered, tolerant, educated in the widest sense of the word, sensitive to the needs of others and dedicated to the service of their fellow man and the community as a whole.

## Extra Curricular Activities

Pretoria Boys High boasts of a variety of sporting activities, including cricket, swimming, water polo, tennis, squash, cross country, rugby, hockey, athletics, basketball, fencing and golf. Students can also join any of the following clubs: Aeronautical Society, Angling Club, Bridge Club, Chess Club, Choir, Climbing Club, Computer Club, Debating Society, Dixie Band (Junior and Senior), Dramatics, First Aid Club, Gumboot Dancers, Hiking, National and International Affairs, Orchestra (Junior and Senior), Outreach Society, Photography, Pipe Band, S.C.A., Science Club, Wargames, Wildlife, Writers' Club and Vedic Hindu Youth League.

## Academic Excellence

Great men have walked the corridors of Pretoria Boys High School - among others, Nobel Prize winner, Dr Max Theiler, who produced a vaccine against yellow fever. Eighteen Rhodes scholars, two university principals, at least eight supreme court judges, an archbishop, a bishop, thirty two high school headmasters, five Springbok cricketers, two Springbok rugby players and many other great men attended this school. Its first set of matric results from the introduction of the new NCS curriculum in 2008 saw the school achieving a 100% pass rate with 94.4% of the boys obtaining a university entrance pass. There were 442 individual subject distinctions with mathematics (94), English (62) and Afrikaans (49) leading the pack.

## Partnership With SSP

Pretoria Boys High School partnered with Student Sponsorship Programme in 2008. In 2009, SSP sent the first group of five boys who are day scholars at the school. Pretoria Boys High School is committed to accepting a critical mass of five boys each year, which results in the school having a total of 25 SSP boys at any given time.

## Student Sponsorship Programme

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